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PATENT

By: _____

Andrew T. Pham

Date: March 15, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GROUP ART UNIT: 3754

EXAMINER: FREDERICK C. NICOLAS

In re application of: Wade C.)

Patterson)

Application No: 10/035,959)

Filed: 10/23/2001)

Confirmation No.: 3798)

Attorney Docket No.: 8217)

Customer No. 22922)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In reponse to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 17, 2004, please enter and consider the following Preliminary Amendment. Following entry of this Election and Preliminary Amendment, favorable consideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

March 15, 2004

Response to Office Action dated February 17, 2004

After this Amendment, 10 claims remain pending, 2 of which are independent. In the original application 27 claims were paid for, 5 of which were independent.

Accordingly, it is believed that no additional claims fees are due to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at this time.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees required to secure the entry of this Amendment Under Rule 1.111, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-0882.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this Amendment.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this Amendment.